

Message Text

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45

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-04 AID-05 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-10 /067 W

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O P 261205Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9521

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 3518

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, CB

SUBJ: FEBRUARY 26, THE 57TH DAY OF THE OFFENSIVE

REF: PHNOM PENH 3458

1. SUMMARY. THE BATTALION-SIZED GARRISON AT PREK DACH ON THE LOWER MEKONG FELL LATE FEB 25. FANK DEFENDERS LEFT KOH KRALOR, SOUTH OF BATTAMBANG, TO THE KC AND WALKED TO A STRONGPOINT FARTHER NORTH. FANK HAS REGAINED A SOLID BEACHEAD ON KOH CHAMROEUN ISLAND BETWEEN NEAK LUONG AND BANAM AND THE THIRD NAVAL CONVOY IN A ROW TOOK SUPPLIES FROM PHNOM PENH TO NEAK LUONG WITH LITTLE DAMAGE. SIXTEEN ROCKETS, SOME ON THE AIRBASE, WOUNDED THREE PEOPLE AT POCHENTONG. TEN ROUNDS KILLED ONE PERSON AND WOUNDED ANOTHER IN PHNOM PENH. END SUMMARY.

2. MEKONG SPECIAL ZONE HEADQUARTERS ORDERED THE 100 MEN REMAINING OF THE BATTALION-SIZED GARRISON AT PREK DACH TO EVACUATE LATE FEB. 25. NAVY SHIPS, HOWEVER, ARRIVED OFF SHORE SHORTLY AFTER THE KC FORCED THE DEFENDERS INTO THE WATER; THEY RESCUED ONLY 14. KC GUNNERS SANK ONE PATROL BOAT IN THE RESCUE CONVOY. THEIR FIRE HAD

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REPORTEDLY RENDERED THE TWO 105MM HOWITZERS AT PJPK

DACH UNUSABLE. THE THIRD NAVAL CONVOY IN A ROWN SUCCESS-FULLY TOOK RICE, AMMO AND JET FUEL FROM PHNOM PENH TO NEAK LUONG WITH LITTLE DAMAGE. FANK HAS SUSPENDED EFFORTS TO RELIEVE A BATTALION ISOLATED ON NEAK LUONG'S EASTERN PERIMETER (THAT BATTALION IS GETTING AIRDROPPED SUPPLIES) IN ORDER TO CONCENTRATE ON RETAKING KOH CHAMROEUN, THE VITAL ISLAND BETWEEN BANAM AND NEAK LUONG. ABOUT A BATTALION EQUIVALENT HAS REESTABLISHED A SOLID BRIDGEHEAD ON THE ISLAND WHICH IS RIGHT NEXT TO A KEY FLOATING NAVY SUPPORT BASE.

3. IN BATTAMBANG, THE DEFENDERS OF KOH KRALOR, A DISTRICT TOWN 40 KM SOUTH OF BATTAMBANG WHICH THE KC ISOLATED IN JULY 1974, ABANDONED THE TOWN AND WALKED NORTH TO A HILLY STRONGPOINT. COMMENT: THIS TIMELY DECISION RETURNS NEARLY A BATTALION TO MR III'S CONTROL AT A TIME WHEN EVERY SPARE MAN IS NEEDED.

4. CLOSER TO PHNOM PENH, FINAL REPORTS SHOW THAT FANK ABANDONED OUDONG IN AN ORDERLY MANNER: 11 FRIENDLY WERE KILLED, 4 WOUNDED AND 5 ARE MISSING. THEY LEFT LITTLE EQUIPMENT. LOVEK IS PULLING IN ITS REMAINING POSITION ON THE TONLE SAP RIVER AS IT ESTABLISHES A FIRM DEFENSIVE PERIMETER. UNFORTUNATELY, FANK NEGLECTED TO PULL THE 24 ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS (NEWEST IN THE COUNTRY) OF THE 8TH M-113 SQUADRON OUT OF LOVEK WHERE THEY ARE NOW TRAPPED TO NO PURPOSE. AT KOMPONG CHHANG, A C-123 CRASHED ON LANDING, INJURING THE CREW.

5. HEAVY PRESSURE CONTINUED AGAINST THE 7TH DIVISION AREA NORTHWEST OF THE CAPITAL. NORTHEAST OF PHNOM PENH A POSITION OF THE 28TH BRIGADE WITHDREW WITH 28 CASUALTIES AND MANY WEAPONS LOST. THE KC LOST 30 MEN IN ATTACKS ON THE EAST BANK OF THE MEKONG OPPOSITE PHNOM PENH. THE KC ARE STILL ENCIRCLING POSITIONS OF THE 3RD DIVISION SOUTHWEST OF PHNOM PENH AND HAVE INCREASED ATTACKS BY FIRE. THE COMMANDING GENERAL SAYS HIS DIVISION HAS NO RESERVE AND IS NOW FIXED IN ITS POSITIONS.

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6. SIXTEEN ROCKETS LANDED AT POCHENTONG, SOME ON THE AIRBASE, WOUNDING THREE PEOPLE. THE CAPITAL CITY TOOK 10 ROUNDS WHICH KILLED ONE AND WOUNDED ONE.

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